

Background: Pyramids at Giza

Some background information:

We certainly know that the Pyramids existed because they're still with us. Rising out of the desert sands, the Pyramids of Egypt stand as a monument to the skill and determination of the Egyptian pharaohs and their ability to get thousands of people to do hard labour for generations.



Huge blocks of rock were cut from places many miles away and taken by boat to Giza and other places where pyramids were being built. The slaves used a series of logs rolling on the ground to move the giant stones. Then, they put them in place as parts of a pyramid.

The first pyramids were called "Step Pyramids" because they looked like giant steps. The pyramids we recognize today, the smooth ones, were built later.



The Pyramids were built over a period of many years. The first great pyramid was ordered built by King Khufu (or Cheops), about 2600 B.C. This is the Great Pyramid, near Giza. It is 481 feet tall and 755 feet wide at each base. Historians believe that about 100,000 workers slaved away for more than 20 years to build this one pyramid.

Other pyramids followed, ordered built by other pharaohs. Historians still don't know how many pyramids were built in all because they are always finding remains of others beneath the constantly blowing sands of the Sahara Desert.

Why were these Pyramids built? The Egyptian people believed in another life beyond the one they lived on Earth. They believed that their Pharaohs, who were closer to the gods or even gods come to Earth, should have all kinds of earthly comforts in their journey to the next life.

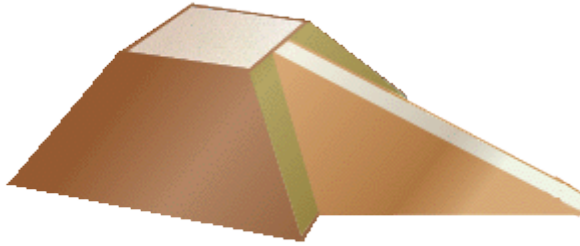
When a Pharaoh died, he or she was embalmed, wrapped in preservative materials, and set in a sarcophagus (coffin) inside the pyramid. Also inside the pyramid were jewels, food, and other things the Pharaoh would take with himself or herself into the next life. These embalmed Pharaohs are called mummies.

A mummy was created using special chemicals. The body was wrapped tight and preserved so that the person inside would have protection for his or her soul.

The Egyptians made their dead Pharaohs into mummies because they believed that the Pharaohs would be their link to the gods even in the afterlife. The people wanted the gods to continue to smile on them, so they kept their Pharaohs protected by strong chemicals and strong buildings (the pyramids). The current pharaoh was a child of the gods, but it sure didn't hurt to have other pharaohs still protecting people.

How were the Pyramids built? Historians still don't know for sure. The stones used to build the Pyramids were massive, weighing many tons. These large stones were way too heavy for people to carry to the tall heights of the top of the Pyramids.





More and more, historians think that the ancient Egyptians used ramps to push or pull the stones to the top. But whether they used one ramp straight up each side or the ramp went parallel up each side is still being debated. The Pyramids are a rare Wonder of the Ancient World: they are still standing. The other six are no longer with us.

Also look at :









<http://7wonders.mrdonn.org/giza.html>



















<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/www/world/pyramidsdef.htm>

Handcraft: Hieroglyphics/Secret Codes

Let the Cubs create their own secret codes to write a message using their interpretation of hieroglyphics.

Link : http://edhelper.com/themes/Hieroglyphics_Chart.htm

	A		B		C		D
	E		F		G		H

	I		J		K		L
	M		N		O		P
	Q		R		S		T
	U		V		W		X
	Y		Z				

An idea for secret codes:

Link: <http://www.crayola.com/things-to-do/crafts-landing/code-maker--breaker.aspx>

To make the code maker use scissors to cut a rectangle about 7 cm by 19 cm from recycled cereal box cardboard. Fold the rectangle in half so the long ends meet. Snip into the fold at 3 cm from each end. Unfold. Cut into each snip to make a 4 cm opening centered and running parallel to each short end.

To make the code breaker, cut a 23 cm by 4 cm piece of construction paper to fit in the code maker's slots. Trim the sides of the code breaker so it will glide easily when you put it into the code maker. Mark 1 cm spaces to the right and left of the code maker. Write A through M to the left and N through Z to the right in the spaces.



Write the code letters (hieroglyphics) on the code breaker strip so they line up with your code maker alphabet. You can make several codes by sliding the code breaker up so each letter is aligned with a different letter. Write the top two letters that disappear in the new spaces at the bottom. Mark lines on the construction paper strip at the top to show how to line up the letters for the particular message you are sending, then be sure to tell the message's recipient at which line to arrange the code breaker.